

## A PRAYER FOR KINDLING THE NER NESHAMAH (SOUL-FLAME LIGHT) DURING SHIVA

נֵר יְהוָה נִשְׁמַת אָדָם:

The human soul is the Lord's light. (*Proverbs 20:27*)

Almighty God, I kindle this soul-flame light in loving memory of my dear \_\_\_\_\_ who has now gone to *his/her* eternity. I pray thee, may *his/her* soul be bound up in the bond of life with the souls of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah; and with the souls of all our loved ones who have gone before. May *his/her* rest be of honor, with fullness of joy in thy presence, secure at thy right hand forever. Amen.

## A PRAYER UPON COMPLETING SHIVA

כִּי יְהוָה יְהִי־לָךְ לְאֹר עוֹלָם. וְשָׁלְמוּ יְמֵי אֲבִלְךָ:

For the Lord will be with you as an everlasting light.

And the days of your mourning shall come to an end.

*(Isaiah 60:20)*

O God, Comforter of Mourners, as the Shiva days of mourning for my dear \_\_\_\_\_ come to an end, I am grateful for the strength which thy love has given me, and for the support of family and friends without whom the loneliness and grief would have been unbearable. This period of retreat from my everyday routine has helped me focus on the lasting blessings that are mine because of my love for \_\_\_\_\_. In the time ahead, be with me, a rock for me to lean on when I falter. Help me find comfort in thy gift of memory through which our loved ones live on in our lives. Through the blessing of love, which links this world with that of the next, I know that \_\_\_\_\_ lives with me and my family in a sacred relationship, unbroken.

צְדִיקִים בְּמִיתָתָן נִקְרְאוּ חַיִּים:

Good people, even in death, are called alive.

*(Talmud Bavli, Brahot 18a)*

בְּלַע הַמּוֹת לְנֶצַח.

וּמַחָה אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה דְּמַעָה מֵעַל כָּל־פְּנִים:

God will swallow death eternally.

The Lord God will wipe tears from all faces.

*(Isaiah 25:8)*